



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN



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Space Gateway Support

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Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Contamination Control

On 2 February, FBI lab reports confirmed **ricin** samples were discovered in the office of US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. The situation was properly handled and there was no immediate threat to life. We cannot take these threats lightly. Every government facility is a potential target. Take the time to review procedures for identifying and reporting suspicious packages and activities on the spaceport.

A recent exercise pointed out a potential problem everyone should try to avoid. The scenario involved a suspicious package containing an unknown powder substance. Several people went into the area where the suspicious powder was reported. When the building was evacuated, those personnel (potentially exposed) evacuated to another building. Had these personnel been exposed they could have spread contamination to other areas and personnel, further complicating the situation. We participate in these exercises to train and educate personnel on proper response procedures and to pass "lessons learned" on to those who might benefit from these scenarios. **If a suspicious package/container is discovered, immediately initiate strict contamination control procedures:**

1. Do not open, shake or empty the contents of any suspicious envelope or package.
2. PLACE the envelope or package in a plastic bag or some other type of container to prevent leakage of contents.
3. If the contents are spilled, do not try to clean up the powder. Cover the spilled contents and package with anything (clothing, paper, trash can, etc.) do not remove this cover.
4. Turn off air conditioning or ventilation systems as appropriate. Then LEAVE the room and CLOSE the door, or section off the area. Stay in the immediate area and keep others from entering.

Isolate all personnel potentially exposed to the package to prevent spreading of contamination.

5. WASH your hands with **soap and water** to prevent spreading any powder to your face.
6. Dial **"911" (867-7911 or 853-0911 for Cellular Phones)** to report the incident. Notify your supervisor.
7. REMOVE heavily contaminated clothing as soon as possible and place in a plastic bag, or some other container that can be sealed. This clothing bag should be given to the emergency responders for proper handling.
8. SHOWER with **soap and water** as soon as possible. **DO NOT Use Bleach Or Other Disinfectants On Your Skin.**
9. List all people who were in the room or area, especially those who had actual contact with the powder. Give this list to authorities so that proper instructions can be given for medical follow-up and to law enforcement officials for further investigation.

Note: WMD Threats are a CRIME. The areas or buildings that are involved will be treated as a crime scene. Special efforts will be implemented to preserve evidence.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) procedures are covered in Joint Documented Procedure 3013 (JDP-KSC-P-3013)

Here are some tips in identifying suspicious packages:

- Excessive postage
- Unusual odors
- Too much wrapping
- Bulges, bumps, or odd shapes
- No return or unfamiliar return address
- Incorrect spelling or poor typing
- Items sent "registered" or marked "personal"
- Protruding wires, strings, or aluminum foil
- Unusually light or heavy packages
- Oily stains discoloration or odor
- Ticking sound